

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3270

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AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UNGA

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: SAN JOSE 3689

1. IN VISIT WITH COSTA RICAN THIRD COMMITTEE REP
(DEBARISH) SEPTEMBER 7, MISOFF DELIVERED COPY OF TEXT
OF CZECHOSLOVAK AIDE MEMOIRE DELIVERED TO DEPARTMENT
AUGUST 22ND OPPOSING CREATION OF POST OF HIGH
COMMISSIONER, WHICH SHE HAD NOT SEEN. IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS, SHE SAID COSTA RICA HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO SEEK
CO-SPONSORS FOR RESOLUTION BECAUSE THEY WERE UNCERTAIN
OF THE ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE IN PLACING ITEM
ON AGENDA. MISOFF ASSURED HER THAT THERE WOULD BE VERY
STRONG SUPPORT TO MAKE SURE THE ITEM WAS INCLUDED ON
AGENDA. DEBARISH THEN SAID THAT SHE HOPED TO CALL A
MEETING OF THE LIKE-MINDED (I.E., THE KEY SPONSORS OF
LAST YEAR'S HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL) SHORTLY BEFORE
THE BEGINNING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MISOFF URGED HER TO
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INCLUDE AS MANY OF THE NATIONS WHO SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL
AS POSSIBLE. SHE SAID THAT COSTA RICA WAS PREPARED TO
ACCEPT OR EVEN INTRODUCE "COMPROMISE LANGUAGE" THAT
WOULD CALL FOR THE CREATION OF AN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL,
OR A COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMS, BUT THAT SHE
STILL EXPECTED THAT ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD BE DEFEATED THIS
YEAR BY A PROCEDURAL MOVE BASED ON THE ARGUMENT THAT THE

OVERALL ANALYSIS CALLED FOR IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/130 IS THE PROPER FORUM FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL. COMMENT: USUN ALSO BELIEVES THAT ANY SUCH PROPOSAL THIS YEAR WILL PROBABLY BE DEFEATED ON THOSE GROUNDS. END COMMENT.

2. DEBARISH ALSO COMMENTED THAT HER AMBASSADOR, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE, HAS JUST BEEN NOMINATED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE. COMMENT: WITH PIZA-ESCALANTE'S INTEREST OTHER DIRECTED, COSTA RICAN LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE BEHIND THIS ISSUE IS SUBSTANTIALLY DIMINISHED. END COMMENT.

3. UK THIRD COMMITTEE REP (EDIS) TOLD MISOFFS EARLIER SEPTEMBER 7TH THAT HE BELIEVED THAT A STRONG FIGHT MUST BE MADE IN GENERAL COMMITTEE TO AVOID EXCLUSION OF THE COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE FOR TWO REASONS: TO AVOID THE PRECEDENT OF REFUSING TO INSCRIBE ANY AGENDA ITEM, AND TO "PUT DOWN A MARKER" ON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SHOWING HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MANY MEMBER STATES. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THE MOST HE BELIEVED COULD BE ACHIEVED THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH COMMISSIONER. COMMENT: USUN DOUBTS THAT THERE WILL BE ANY ATTEMPT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BLOCK INCLUSION OF THE COSTA RICAN AGENDA ITEM, BUT IF SUCH AN ATTEMPT IS MADE WE MUST LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT DEFENSE OF THE RIGHT TO BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. AS OF THIS MOMENT, USUN BELIEVES THAT THE MOST THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR IS FREQUENT MENTION OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATES PROPOSALS, BUILDING UP A CASE FOR THE OVERALL ANALYSIS AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING IN FEBRUARY-MARCH. YOUNG

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